

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 11-18 are allowed. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and new claims 21 and 22 are added. Claims 21 and 22 incorporate the subject matter of claim 1 and allowable claims 19 and 20, respectively. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. Telephone Interview

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the August 25 telephonic interview. As discussed and agreed during the interview, claims 19 and 20 are objected to, and are not allowed as indicated in the Office Action. Claims 19 and 20 are allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and any intervening claims because the subject matter recited therein is not disclosed in the applied references of record.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter as indicated above. New claims 21 and 22 incorporate the subject matter of the allowable claims and their base claim. Thus, Applicants submit claims 21 and 22 are in condition for allowance. Additionally, claims 19 and 20 are allowable for at least their dependency on claim 1 for the reasons discussed below.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,089,442 to Short. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant asserts that Short does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, Short does not disclose a sewing apparatus. . . comprising. . . a holding member that presses at least a part of the thread connecting two consecutive stitch

points to the workpiece in accordance with a relative movement between the needle and the workpiece.

Rather, Short discloses a presser member 18 carried by bracket means 20 secured to the upper housing 4. The presser member 18 is provided with openings 22 in vertical alignment with the spaces between adjacent ones of the tines 16 and also in vertical alignment with the needles 24 of the machine. A backing sheet 12 is supported from below by a plurality of tine elements 16 secured to the base portion 2 of the machine and is held against substantial upward movement by the presser member 18 (col. 2, lines 42-50). Accordingly, the presser member 18 of Short does not come into contact or press the thread to the workpiece (see Figs. 1 and 5-8). Thus, the presser member 18 of Short does not press at least a part of the thread to the workpiece.

Regarding claims 3-6, Applicant asserts that Short does not disclose a holding member made of a hollow member having an inside wall surface that forms a passing hole through which the needle passes. The presser member 18, as shown in the figures, appears to be a flat plate. Furthermore, there is no description in the specification of the presser member 18 being hollow.

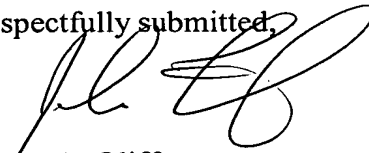
Additionally, the holding member disclosed in Short does not have a substantially circular shape, as recited in claim 6. As stated above, the presser member 18 shown in the figures of Short appears to be a flat plate-like member and there is no description in the specification of the presser member having a substantially circular shape. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

IV. **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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